

# PUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

*Puxton & Hewish: in the North Somerset Council Ward of Congresbury & Puxton*

**Clerk: Donald Hill - 18 Mitford Slade Court, Mendip Road, Yatton, North Somerset BS49 4JG**

Tel: 01934 835578 Mobile: 07774 125578 e-mail: [clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk) Website: [puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://puxtonparishcouncil.org.uk)

---

## Minutes of the Meeting Held at 7pm on Thursday June 6th 2024

*All meetings are held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall unless stated otherwise -  
Although under no obligation to, Dan Thomas, our NSC Ward Cllr, attends when possible*

**Present:** Cllrs Jim Corbett (Vice Chair & Meeting Chair), Victoria Butterfield, Mel Ellis, Clayton Penfold, Peter Penfold,

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 1

### 048/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs L Redding, H Riddell, NSC Cllr Dan Thomas

### 049/24 DECLARATIONS: *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re percept setting, and Village Hall matters)*

None

### 050/24 PUBLIC SESSION: *15 minutes - Contributions are limited to 3 minutes: they should be concise and to the point This session actually took place after the Finance item as the attendee arrived after the start of the meeting*

**Fly-tipping:** This contribution was not a complaint, rather a call to action. Fly-tipping is becoming an increasing problem. Fly-tippers need to be caught and fly-tipping needs to be speedily removed. The topic naturally linked to the fly-tipping item at minute 054/24 below.

### 051/24 LAST MEETING MINUTES + Matters Arising

**Minutes of the May 8th 2023 Annual & Ordinary Meetings** were agreed and signed.

**Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting** of May 8th were reviewed, noted and initialled. Signing of this document will be at the May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting.

### 052/2 PLANNING *Details at <https://planning.n-somerset.gov.uk/online-applications/>*

i. **New: 24/P/1039/AOC:** Cider House Conversion, The Grange, West Hewish. Discharge of Conditions 3 (Construction Management Statement) & 8 (Renewable Energy) on application 23/P/2556/FUL (*for information only*). Details pre-circulated to Members. Application noted.

#### ii. Decisions Due:

- (a) **19/P/0815/FUL** Puxton Park car park.
- (b) **22/P/3067/OUT** Haybow Village (Banwell PC).
- (c) **23/P/2782/AOC** Discharge of Conditions, Maysgreen Lane barn.
- (d) **23/P/2593/FUL** Land Opposite The Full Quart.
- (e) **23/P/2738/FUL** Villa Farm barn conversions.
- (f) **24/P/0157/FUL** Barn conversion opposite Heathgate Farm.
- (g) **24/P/0143/FUL:** Gypsy/Traveller site below Heathfield Park
- (h) **24/P/0604/FUL** Hewish Barn
- (i) **24/P/0745/CM2** Awaiting NSC Community Response reaction.

053/24

## FINANCE

- i. **2024-25 Accounts:** were reviewed, reconciled against the bank statement and approved.
- ii. **2023-24 Accounts:** Period of Public Rights runs from 3rd June to 12th July.
- iii. **Governance:** Updated Financial Regulations based on new NALC template were approved after the approval date was corrected to June 6th. **Clerk to post to website.**
- iv. **2022-23 Accounts:** The 2021-22 accounts were referred to our then External Auditors by an elector at a cost to the Council, ergo, to our community of some £3000. We now learn that the previous complainant referred the 2022-23 accounts to the new External Auditors via some voluminous correspondence. These auditors, who's default duty is to thoroughly investigate the complaints, concluded that there was nothing to report on. The cost of this exercise was £900 including VAT and will, as last time, seriously impact the Council's ability to progress some urgent highway matters within the Parish. **The Clerk will investigate what discretionary powers external auditors may have in relation to such challenges from electors.**
- v. **Payments Due: HMRC PAYE Apr/May/Jun £229.20. BDO External Auditors** Investigation of resident's complaint re 2022-23 accounts (un-budgeted) £900.00

Standing orders were suspended to allow the public session to take place as at minute 050/124 above: they were reinstated after that session.

054/24

## PARISH MATTERS

- i. **A370. Signage and Speed Issues - Especially around St Anne's School:**
  - (a) Police DCB (data collection box) erection awaited.
  - (b) Grant application result awaited re Police Sign Indicator Device (SID) fund.
  - (c) St Annes School: **Gully overflows:** pictures of flooding will help to push resolution of the problem up the NSC agenda. **Congresbury-end School warning sign** repair with NSC. See below re A370 footpath.
- ii. **Fly-tipping:**
  - **Dolmoor Lane:** No response has been received from NSC re possible help with this problem. **Cllr Thomas is seeing if his intervention can prompt some action.**
  - **Fly-Tipping Generally:** Beyond the ongoing saga of Dolmoor Lane, this has become an increasing problem, notably along Puxton Lane. A discussion was sparked by the public session above that focused on action rather than complaint. Ideas were discussed about forms of surveillance to catch fly-tippers and the speedy removal of waste to prevent accumulations of rubbish. The meeting agreed that Cllrs Butterfield and Ellis would lead on this problem and develop some ideas to put before a future meeting for review and progression.
- iii. **Post Box by the Green in Puxton Road:** new box on a pole due but there may be nowhere to locate it. Item to come off the agenda, but to be called up for review at the October meeting.
- iv. **A370 Footpath:** NSC claim not to be able to prioritise essential maintenance of this path. They are reportedly planning to clear the section between the Full Quart and St Annes School. This is a Ward issue affecting both Puxton and Congresbury parish councils, and **Members asked that our Ward Councillor, Dan Thomas become involved in this long term maintenance problem.**
- v. **NSC Local Plan:** The council has contributed to consultations on this twice during the recent past. The plan is entering its 4th re-casting (plan to 2036, 38, 39 and now 40). Puxton and Hewish do not lie within any specific area category - green belt, conservation area, settlement, etc but does lie in a flood plain that has never flooded due to robust flood defences. The parish council has long argued that NSC's resistance to *any* housing development in the parish is stifling the provision of affordable housing for local young

people and those seeking work in the many businesses that flourish within the parish. A counter to this position emerged during discussion of the topic, reflecting a concern that any breach on NSC's no-new-house-building policy in the parish could lead to developers turning the parish landscape into huge housing estates, such as we are seeing spring up in villages across North Somerset. It was agreed that that was not the wish of any Members. The movement of NSC towards any 'give' on possible housing development within the parish remains remote.

**055/24 PROJECTS AWAITING FURTHER ACTION FROM NSC**

- i. **Footpaths:** 4 old items and one new item:
  - Path 399628 - New kissing gate overgrown, making access to field impossible
  - Path 398631 - obstruction to access from the road on the corner
  - The roadside path at Puxton Court Farm: fence removal. Re-fit of exposed wires on pole.
  - Path at Wick Lane M5 bridge: NSC are to install a new kissing Gate adjacent to it.
  - Rotting bridge and bramble infested path at the junction of Puxton Road and Maysgreen Lane NSC dealing.
- ii. **Wick Lane Rail Bridge:** More regular weeding and overgrowth clearance, and clear, well maintained pedestrian markings, and 'Beware, Pedestrians' notices at either end needed.

**056/24 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**Cllr Ellis: Green Bins:** some homes have bins the outer surface of which has not been properly sealed against fading in strong sunlight. This apparently affects the ability of the annual bin licence labels to be clearly read and is leading to bins not being emptied as a result. The route to resolving this problem lies in contacting NSC at [gardenwaste@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:gardenwaste@n-somerset.gov.uk).

Cllr Ellis will get the relevant information circulated as widely as possible via social media outlets.

**057/24 NEXT MEETING - Thursday June 27th 2024 in the Village Hall Meeting Room.**

**Note changed date due to Hall being unavailable on July 4th due to General Election.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15pm**